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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 2 August 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the documents adopted by the Council on Collective Security of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Minsk, 22-23 June 2006):

(a) Declaration of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the Further Enhancement and Improvement of the Effectiveness of the Organization's Activities (see annex I);

(b) Statement of the Collective Security Treaty Organization at the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 105 at its sixty-first session.

(Signed) **Sergei Rachkov**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/61/150.



**Annex I to the letter dated 2 August 2006 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original Russian]

**Declaration of the States members of the Collective Security
Treaty Organization on the Further Enhancement and
Improvement of the Effectiveness of the Organization's Activities**

Minsk, 23 June 2006

We, the Heads of State of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO),

Confirming our resolve to implement consistently the provisions of the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992, the Charter of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the main documents and decisions adopted in elaboration thereof, which identified key areas for the development of a collective security system of the CSTO member States,

Taking into account the intention to cooperate closely in order to strengthen the international legal order and regimes for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

Noting the progress made since the founding of CSTO in the area of cooperation among member States in foreign and defence policy and in counteracting today's challenges and threats,

Acknowledging the need to take additional measures to adapt CSTO to changing political realities and to the demands currently made of a multifunctional international security structure,

Declare that:

The CSTO member States are intensifying efforts for the comprehensive development and enhancement of integration mechanisms within the framework of the Organization to combat growing challenges and threats at the regional and global levels, and confirm the need to cooperate closely in order to ensure the effective protection of their national and collective interests.

We believe that it is important to reaffirm the principles adopted previously, and to develop new approaches to the all-round strengthening of the collective security system, as follows:

- Commonality of goals and objectives in developing a collective security system in the CSTO area of responsibility;
- Coherence of actions, which must be without prejudice to collective security interests;
- Priority of the CSTO member States' alliance obligations, and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and authority of each member State;
- Mutual respect, and consideration for member States' national interests and positions in the area of foreign policy and security;

- Coordination of foreign policy, and protection and safeguarding of member States' collective and national interests in the international arena.

For the near term, we set the goal of developing, within the framework of CSTO, an effective mechanism to counteract today's challenges and threats, tapping the potential of member States' defence and special agencies and the possibilities for cooperation with other international organizations. In this context, we pay close attention to the training of personnel for the defence, law enforcement and special agencies of the CSTO member States.

We advocate stepping up efforts to coordinate anti-terrorist and anti-narcotic activity, combat illegal migration and develop emergency response cooperation mechanisms for natural and man-made disasters.

Still deeper and more effective cooperation in the political sphere will help to strengthen the potential for cooperation to counteract today's challenges and threats. We consider the implementation of mechanisms to coordinate foreign policy activity in order to protect the CSTO member States' collective and national interests to be a critical task.

Expanding the systematic exchange of information on steps being taken in the area of foreign policy and security and on military and political contacts with other international organizations and third countries should become a key factor in developing cooperation among the CSTO member States.

We attach particular importance to the strengthening of ties with the United Nations and other international organizations dealing with security issues. We are open to the establishment of regional and global cooperative relationships to combat terrorism, extremism and the illegal distribution of narcotic drugs.

We believe that the establishment, within the framework of CSTO, of a unified collective security system requires the strengthening and development of the military component of CSTO, in terms of its capacity both to combat traditional threats and to adapt to the changing conditions of the fight against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and other contemporary challenges and threats.

We believe it would be advisable to embark on the development of strategic planning mechanisms for the use of the collective security system's forces and resources and for the provision of emergency military and technical assistance to CSTO member States that face security threats or are the object of acts of aggression.

In order to ensure the successful implementation of the measures described in this Declaration to further enhance and improve the effectiveness of CSTO, the Heads of State of the CSTO member States hereby instruct the Secretary-General and Permanent Council of CSTO to prepare a proposal on the development of a legal and regulatory framework for CSTO for submission to the Council on Collective Security.

For the Republic of Armenia
(Signed) Robert **Kocharian**

For the Republic of Belarus
(Signed) Alyaksandr **Lukashenka**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
(Signed) Nursultan **Nazarbayev**

For the Kyrgyz Republic
(Signed) Kurmanbek **Bakiev**

For the Russian Federation
(Signed) Vladimir **Putin**

For the Republic of Tajikistan
(Signed) Emomali **Rakhmonov**

**Annex II to the letter dated 2 August 2006 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Russian]

**Statement of the Collective Security Treaty Organization at
the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in
the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent,
Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light
Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 26 June-7 July 2006**

Minsk, 25 June 2006

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

Emphasizing the importance of speedy and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,

Noting with satisfaction the regional, subregional and national efforts made to support the implementation of the Programme of Action, and appreciating the progress achieved over the last five years,

Expressing its adherence to the lofty goals of the Programme of Action and its readiness to do everything possible to promote their achievement,

Wishes to inform Conference participants that the States members of CSTO have taken the following measures to implement the Programme of Action:

They have made coordinated decisions on small arms and light weapons within the framework of CSTO;

They have enhanced national export control legislation;

They have promoted the development, adoption and implementation of regional measures within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and are involved in implementing OSCE projects aimed at destroying surplus small arms and light weapons and improving stockpile security;

They are voluntarily taking steps to eliminate surplus stockpiles of man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS) and have agreed on additional measures to monitor such weapons in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of non-State actors, including international terrorists;

They are open to cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects with all countries, groups of States and organizations interested in such cooperation, and in this connection wish to express support for the efforts of all United Nations Member States, groups of States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to implement the Programme of Action;

- They welcome the adoption of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and support its full implementation at the global, regional and national levels.

CSTO considers that one of the primary goals of the Conference should be to agree on additional measures for the practical implementation, in the period after 2006, of the Programme of Action, whose potential is still far from being fully tapped. The CSTO member States believe that these additional measures could be developed by the Conference without amending the text of the instrument itself.

As additional measures which could contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, the CSTO:

Supports strengthening oversight of brokering in small arms and light weapons and believes that the group of governmental experts should begin its work as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Review Conference;

Supports the initiation of focused discussions within the framework of the Programme of Action, on the question of strengthening oversight of small arms and light weapons transfers to non-governmental structures and organizations;

Supports the development and adoption, within the framework of the Programme of Action, of a set of measures to counteract the unregulated shipment of small arms and light weapons, including MANPADS, as well as their manufacture without a licence or permit from the country of the original producer and owner of the production technology.

CSTO opposes artificial restrictions that hinder licit trade and proposes, without prejudice to national positions, that the Conference should focus on such steps as will promote the eradication of the illicit trade in and circulation of small arms and light weapons. The CSTO member States stand ready to participate in a discussion of initiatives related to legal shipments of small arms and light weapons in the context of suppressing illicit trafficking in armaments.

For the Republic of Armenia
(Signed) Robert **Kocharian**

For the Republic of Belarus
(Signed) Alyaksandr **Lukashenka**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
(Signed) Nursultan **Nazarbayev**

For the Kyrgyz Republic
(Signed) Kurmanbek **Bakiev**

For the Russian Federation
(Signed) Vladimir **Putin**

For the Republic of Tajikistan
(Signed) Emomali **Rakhmonov**